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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Conference at Sovietische Mineralölverwaltung Headquarters. The following subjects were discussed at a conference held at SMV headquarters in the Kentgasse on 27 March 1948:
 - a. The setting up of a central control for all oil drillings.
 - b. The division of crude oil into four price groups in preparation for the oil agreement.
 - c. Instructions to the refinery laboratories with reference to the examination of methods of analysis for "Weissprodukte".
 - d. The setting up of a central store for the supply of instruments for all the laboratories of the oil complex.
 - e. Transportation measures - each product to be transported in its own type of car to prevent deterioration of the quality of the refined products and changes in their chemical constitution.
 - f. Further development of the central laboratory and increase in its sphere of influence and efficiency.
2. SMV Central Laboratory, Lobau (17 March 1948). The following research tasks have been allotted to chemists in the central laboratory of the SMV:
 - a. Research into crude oil emulsions.
 - b. Research into the most economical method of mixing petroleum, ether, and gasoline, consistent with producing the required standard of quality with the minimum proportion of gasoline.
 - c. Theoretical and practical research into lead-ethyl mixtures by means of analysis, Riesenfeldtbrandte (sic), etc., in order to obtain the required octane value without engine knock.
 - d. Research into production of high grade petroleum ether with the greatest possible stability for the benefit of all Soviet petroleum laboratories, mainly in order to evolve a satisfactory standard method of obtaining a high bitumen content.

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e. Laboratory refining tests.

The above tasks were communicated in writing to the chemists and must be completed by 15 May 1948 at the latest.

3. BNV Operation of Pipelines. (1 April 1948) The intermediary pumping station at Bockfließ resumed full operation on 24 March 1948 with a maximum daily output of 2,000 tons of crude oil. There is some doubt as to whether this amount can be stored in the central container and processed by the refineries.

 Note: The Russians probably intend to load the oil onto tankers on the Danube in Vienna. This would relieve the pressure on the railroads.)

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 Comment:

Early in April 1948, the Russians were pumping crude oil through the long distance pipe line direct to Czechoslovakia. This pipeline connects Vienna with Kolin and Nádraží and has been in existence, though not in operation, for some time. The Russians have now connected it directly with the Zistersdorf fields, and a considerable quantity of high grade crude oil is flowing through this pipeline to Pardubice. It is possible that Pardubice is also the destination of UT transports (undeclared transports). As a result of this, only small quantities of inferior quality oil are reaching the Zentraltanklager (central container depot) and there has been a noticeable drop in crude oil reserves. In fact, the supply of crude oil is insufficient to keep all the refineries working. It is not clear whether or not the aforementioned information has any bearing on the information contained in paragraph 3.)

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4. The pipeline from Mühldorf to DEA-Neusiedel has been rebuilt and is in operation. Pumping is adversely affected by the small capacity of the pumping station at Neusiedel where only three steam pumps are in operation, handling supplies from DEA-East and West and the Van Sickel plant.

5. Developments at the Moosbierbaum Refinery. As of the 50X1-HUM last week of March, a vacuum distillation plant has been operating at Moosbierbaum. It is not known whether this is a completely new plant or one reconstructed from other damaged installations. Until this date, the only products distilled at Moosbierbaum had been "Weissprodukte".

6. The Soviets are also constructing an up-to-date cracking plant at Moosbierbaum, which is scheduled to go into operation in approximately two months' time. This should increase gasoline production figures. In fact the Soviets maintain that it will be possible to lift the 50X1-HUM rationing of gasoline in Austria by August 1948.

7. Test Drillings in the Soviet Zone of Austria.

a. There has been a considerable reduction in new test oil drilling. The main reason for this is that ten or twelve drilling apparatuses were removed. As no spare parts are available for the remaining machines, this leaves only two or three serviceable machines in the Zistersdorf area, only one in the Aderklaa-Matzendorf area, and not more than three machines in Burgenland.

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- b. Mühlberg. Test borings are proceeding at two points NNW of the Mühlberg fields. The oil obtained has a gasoline content of 20% and above. Gas pressure is 250 to 300 atmospheres and the drilling very eruptive.
- c. Matzen. Borings in the Matzen area have been successful, but no analyses of the quality of the crude oil are yet available.
- d. Burgenland. In Burgenland, 150 test drillings have been made. None has so far shown any salt content. Deep boring is about to commence. The first results of this are due in August 1948.
- e. Samples of oil from test drillings are sent direct to Moscow for analysis and not to the central laboratory. The only official data of these tests to reach the central laboratory originate from the laboratories attached to the various plants and from geologists who are permitted to make minor analyses.

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